BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 12-32 August 10, 2012

- **B.C.'s unemployment rate rises to 7.0%**
- **Building permits fall 16.5% in June**
- **Exports drop 2.6% in the second quarter**

Labour Force Survey

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate rose to 7.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, compared to the previous month.** The higher rate of unemployment was due to a contraction in the labour force (−0.2%), together with a 0.6% drop in employment.

  Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.3% in July. Alberta (4.6%), Saskatchewan (5.0%), Manitoba (5.7%), and B.C. (7.0%) all recorded unemployment rates below the national average. Employment in Canada fell by 30,400 jobs in July, with Quebec and B.C. recording the largest job losses. These job losses were partially offset by gains in Ontario and Alberta. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Total employment in B.C.'s goods sector fell 2.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July.** There were fewer people working in agriculture (−2.8%), construction (−3.3%), and manufacturing (-2.5%), but more jobs in utilities (+9.2%) and forestry, fishing, mining quarrying, oil & gas (+9.2%).

  Employment in the service sector edged down (−0.3%) in July. The largest decline was in educational services (-5.8%), followed by transportation & warehousing (-4.0%). The largest service sector employers, trade (+0.3%) and health care & social assistance (0.4%) took on more workers.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Average weekly wages in B.C. were $848.01 in July, below the national average of $867.33.** British Columbians worked an average of 31.7 hours weekly, just below the national average of 31.8 hours. Of the provinces, Quebec recorded the lowest average hours worked (29.4), while workers in Newfoundland & Labrador spent the most time on the job (34.1). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Northeast (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) continued to see the lowest unemployment rate (4.3%) of the regions**, while North Coast/Nechako (11.9%) had the highest unemployment rate. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of exports originating B.C. dipped 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, the fourth decline registered in the past six months.** Weaker shipments of energy products (−6.2%) were responsible for much of the slowdown, offsetting gains made in industrial & consumer goods (+3.7%), forest products (+1.9%), and machinery & equipment and automobiles (+0.4%).

  Nationally, the value of exports inched ahead 0.2% in June, driven in part by higher automobile (+13.9%) shipments. Exports of energy (-3.5%) and agricultural & fishing (−2.8%) products, however, fell during the month. *Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada*

- **New housing starts in British Columbia plunged 28.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, due to an abrupt drop in the number of new urban multi-unit dwellings (-38.1%).** Starts of single-detached units in B.C., however, were up 5.8%. In Vancouver, total starts were down more than one-third (−36.8%).

  Nationally, starts were off 6.1% in July. Six provinces registered a slowdown in new

Report — No article this issue

Did you know...

Getting closer to a life event (e.g. retirement, child's education, etc.) is the main motivator for 28% of women in becoming more financially knowledgeable and involved, while 27% of men report knowing how much money they have now compared to what they will need as their primary motivator.

Data Source: Ipsos Reid

housing projects, with B.C. accounting for most of the overall weakness. Nova Scotia (−31.7%), Saskatchewan (−31.2%), and New Brunswick (−19.6%) also reported double-digit declines.

Data Source: CMHC

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipal authorities slumped 16.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in June, after sharp increases in each of the two previous months.** Much of the decline was the result of a substantial drop in the value of non-residential permits (−35.0%), particularly from the government & institutional sector (−64.6%). Permits for residential projects were also down (−4.3%). Among B.C.'s largest metropolitan areas, Victoria (−47.3%) and Vancouver (−19.8%) posted considerable slowdowns, while Abbottsford-Mission (+54.3%) and Kelowna (+1.8%) registered higher values for permits issued.

  Nationally, the value of building permits issued slipped 2.6% in June. Alberta (−23.9%), Newfoundland & Labrador (−21.3%), Saskatchewan (−20.1%), and B.C. recorded the biggest declines, followed by New Brunswick (−3.7%) and Manitoba (−2.0%).

  Data Source: SC Cat. no. 64-001-X

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits was 18.9% higher than in the first six months of 2011, with seven regions posting increases.** Permits jumped 884.5% in North Coast, due to a surge in planned spending on industrial projects. In Mainland/Southwest, where the bulk of the province's building activity occurs, a 21.1% increase in the value of permits reflected considerably higher spending on residential, industrial and institutional projects.

  Planned spending on new projects fell in just two regions, with the largest decline occurring in Thompson/Okanagan (-21.3%), where the value of permits issued for all types of projects was down.

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **The average selling price for a new home (house and land) in British Columbia dipped 1.0% in June compared to the same month a year earlier.** This decline in new housing prices was reflected in both Vancouver (−0.9%) and Victoria (−2.6%), two of B.C.'s most high-priced housing markets. Nationally, housing prices rose 2.3% between June 2011 and June 2012.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Second Quarter in Review

- **Exports slipped 2.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) during the second quarter of 2012, marking a third consecutive quarterly decline.** Industrial & consumer (−7.6%), energy (−3.2%), agricultural & fishing (2.5%), and forest (−0.9%) product exports were all weaker, while shipments of machinery & equipment and automobiles (+4.1%) rose for a fifth straight quarter.

  Total Canadian exports climbed 2.5% during the second quarter, with automotive products (+5.7%), consumer goods (+5.1%), and machinery & equipment (+5.0%) registering the largest increases.

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

***Infoline* Issue: 12-32**
August 10, 2012

Oops!

In last week's Infoline, *the last sentence in the bullet producer price index contained a typo. The last line should have read:*

- Closer to home, producer prices for B.C. softwood lumber climbed 12.2% between June 2011 and June 2012.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

August 10, 2012
Issue 12-32

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,606.5	1.0
Canada	34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May 2012	3,172	1.0
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2012	2,581	-0.5
Retail Sales - May 2012	5,159	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.5	1.8
Vancouver	1.7	1.9
Victoria	1.4	1.7
Canada	1.5	2.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-14.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,480.1	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,307.7	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	172.4	5.4
		Jun 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 08/2012	Aug 10/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 08/2012	Aug 10/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9947	0.9910
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0054	1.0052
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul 2012	one year ago
BC	848.01	1.7
Canada	867.33	4.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Follow @BCStats on Twitter

The central statistical agency of the Province of BC is regularly updating and interacting on the Twitter social media platform – connect with us:
https://twitter.com/#!/bcstats

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013
- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013
- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013
- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm

Released this week by BC Stats

- Labour Force Statistics
- Earning and Employment Trends
- Exports

Released next week

- Economic Statistics Report

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca